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Daily Highlights

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ UNCRO says situation in Croatia is stable, but troop movements into and out of Zone of Separation continue.

+ Decolonization remains unfinished business despite great success, Chairman tells Subcommittee on Small Territories.

+ States Parties adopt resolution to amend Convention on Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

+ Committee on Rights of Child begins ninth session in Geneva by adopting agenda.

+ World Environment Day 1995 to honour fiftieth anniversary of United Nations.

+ United Nations University to hold Fourth Global Environmental Forum in Osaka on Thursday.

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The situation in Croatia remained stable today, although there was some movement of Croatian Government and Croatian Serb troops into and out of the Zone of Separation, according to a United Nations spokesman. He noted that there had been six flights by Government aircraft into Sector North. In Sector East, the number of incoming refugees from Western Slavonia reached 4,500 today. Meanwhile, the United Nations sent a strong letter of protest to the Croatian police chief in Sector West regarding restrictions on access there.

The situation in Sarajevo was somewhat quieter today, the spokesman said, although two people were killed by Bosnian Serb snipers and a third person was killed by shellfire. A vehicle belonging to United Nations military observers was hijacked and stolen by Bosnian Serb soldiers. However, the Bosnian Serbs returned one of the two artillery pieces removed yesterday from a weapons collection point at Poljine.

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Despite great success, decolonization remains unfinished business, Chairman Utula Utuoc Samana (Papua New Guinea) told the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance yesterday. He said decolonization acquired special meaning in light of both the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations and the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. He made those comments as the Subcommittee began its two-week session at Headquarters.

The Chairman said the Subcommittee's forthcoming work would be greatly influenced by the target date of the year 2000 for the eradication of colonialism, as well as by the changing global and regional political environment. The Special Decolonization Committee continued to regard cooperation with the administering Powers to be of paramount importance and stood ready to cooperate with them in safeguarding the interests of the Non-Self-Governing Territory.

The Subcommittee is considering reports on Anguilla, American Samoa, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands.

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The Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women has decided to amend article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention. That provision concerns meetings of the expert Committee which monitors implementation of the Convention. Under the terms of a resolution adopted by consensus, it would be revised to allow the Committee to normally meet annually to consider national reports of States parties on their implementation of the Convention.

The resolution recommended that the Assembly note with approval the action of the States parties at its fiftieth session later this year. The amendment would enter into force following consideration by the Assembly and acceptance by a two-thirds majority of the States parties.

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The Committee on the Rights of the Child has begun its ninth session in Geneva by adopting its agenda and hearing a statement by Ibrahima Fall, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights. Mr. Fall highlighted the goal of universal ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by the end of 1995. While there were currently 174 States parties to the Convention, and signs that other States were considering ratification, it was still too early to relax efforts towards universality. He called for the strengthening of relationships between the various human rights treaty bodies so that a

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greater synergy could be achieved within the United Nations human rights system by the year 2000.

In her opening address, Chairman Hoda Badran said that if financial assistance were not increased, the Committee would have trouble coping with the large backlog of States parties' reports. She hoped that the Centre for Human Rights would respond to its request for increased assistance.

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World Environment Day will be celebrated around the world on 5 June in order to focus attention on environmental action and awareness. With the theme of "We the Peoples, United for the Global Environment", the Day will also honour the United Nations on its fiftieth anniversary.

World Environment Day was established by the General Assembly in 1972. Each year, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) chooses a theme and selects a capital city as the main venue for the international celebrations. The venue this year is Pretoria, South Africa.

The first major event planned in the week-long series of activities in South Africa will be an interfaith celebration led by Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Other planned activities include a festival with an environment theme, an art exhibit on the environment, and a symposium on South Africa's biological diversity.

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The United Nations University (UNU) will hold its Fourth Global Environmental Forum, on the subject of "Population, Land Management and Environmental Change", on Thursday in Osaka, Japan. The Forum started in 1991 as an international gathering of leading researchers and experts from all continents to discuss specific issues related to global environmental change.

The Forum will report on the University's collaborative research project on population, land management and environmental change. The project involves field work in key agro-ecological zones of tropical and sub-tropical areas. It aims to understand the dynamic interactions between population and environment, which affect land management at the global, regional and local levels.

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